

**STANLY COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 15, 2016**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

T. Scott Efird, Chairman
Bill Lawhon, Vice Chairman
Peter Asciutto
Joseph Burleson
Tony Dennis
Janet K. Lowder
Gene McIntyre

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Andy Lucas, County Manager
Jenny Furr, County Attorney
Tyler Brummitt, Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The Stanly County Board of Commissioners (the "Board") met in regular session on Monday, February 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room, Stanly Commons. Chairman Efird called the meeting to order, gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL / ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Commissioner Burleson moved to approve the following amendments to the agenda:

- Table Item # 1 – Update on the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) for Stanly County, Town of Red Cross and City of Locust.
- Add Central Permitting budget amendments # 2016-26 and #2016-27 to the consent agenda as Item # 5(E).
- Add Ms. Nicole Revels as part of Connect NC Bond presentation
- Add approval for the EMS ambulance and equipment financing to Item # 5(C).

Commissioner Dennis seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Asciutto moved to add a discussion to consider establishing a parks and recreation line item in next year's budget as item # 4 and change the consent agenda to # 5. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis and passed with a 7 – 0 vote.

ITEM # 1 – UPDATE ON THE COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR STANLY COUNTY, TOWN OF RED CROSS AND CITY OF LOCUST

Presenter: Dana Stoogenke, Rocky River RPO Director

This item was tabled until the March 7th meeting.

ITEM # 2 – CONNECT NC PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE ASSOCIATED RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

Presenters: Lori Ivey, Cooperative Extension Director

Robin McCree, Interim President, Stanly Community College

Ms. Ivey presented a brief Powerpoint presentation which included an overview of the Connect NC Bond. If approved by the voters of North Carolina, the bond will provide \$2 billion through the sale of bonds with no tax increase to make the following investments across the state:

- UNC School System - \$900,000,000 (49%)
- Community Colleges - \$350,000,000 (17%)
- Water/Sewer Infrastructure and Local Parks - \$312,500,000 (16%)
- National Guard and Public Safety - \$78,500,000 (4%)
- Agriculture - \$179,000,000 (9%)
- Parks & Zoos - \$100,000,000 (5%)

These funds will be used for new construction, renovation and repairs to existing facilities on the seventeen (17) university of North Carolina campuses as well as the fifty-eight (58) campuses in the community college system, infrastructure improvements to state parks to include the North Carolina Zoo, various water, sewer and local park infrastructure projects and help fund repairs for the National Guard and other key public facilities.

More specifically, Stanly Community College would receive \$5.5 million for repairs and renovations, Morrow Mountain State Park would receive \$1.5 million for improvements, and funding for local water / sewer infrastructure grants and loans would increase by more than \$309 million. Stanly County has total proposed funding of more than \$7 million through Connect NC if approved.

Following the presentation, Ms. Ivey and Ms. McCree entertained questions from the Board. Commissioner Burleson stated that he understands that several projects in Stanly County would

benefit from the bond, but is concerned with some of the other spending in the bond. He also noted that at one point, funding for transportation needs was included and asked Ms. Ivey if she is aware of any transportation needs addressed in the bond. Ms. Ivey stated she was not familiar with the transportation piece, but can provide him with a contact for that information. He also noted concerns that although the bond states there will be no tax increase, the state is finally in the position of having a budget surplus and there may be a time when those funds are needed to invest in state government versus servicing the debt payment for the bond. Ms. Ivey responded stating that her understanding is that the new debt payment will take the place of an existing payment for a bond previously issued in 2000 which will be rolling off.

Commissioner Lawhon noted that he had recently attended a training session where they were also told that the Connect NC debt would be paid with the funds previously used to repay the bond issued in 2000.

Commissioner McIntyre stated his support of anything that will help Stanly County, but also has concerns as to what may happen if these funds are not disbursed completely, or if they are shifted to other counties differently than as originally presented. Ms. McCree responded by adding that the funds have already been allocated for the projects and that if any funds are not used, they will then be reallocated.

To Ms. McCree, Commissioner Burleson asked what projects the community college plans to use the \$5.5 million for. Ms. McCree stated that no new construction will be completed, but funds would be used for repairs and renovations associated with ADA compliance. She noted the college is in the process of preparing a list of projects for submission should the bond pass. Commissioner Lowder, who serves on the State Community College Board, also stated that any projects submitted by the community college must be approved by the local and state community college boards prior to being submitted to the state for approval.

Commissioner Ascianto commented that the NC Legislature, NC Senate and Governor are in support of the Connect NC bond and that if the bond doesn't pass, how will these projects ever be funded? He stated his appreciation for the potential investment in education the bond may bring and thanked Ms. Ivey and Ms. McCree for their presentation.

Chairman Efird also stated that if he understands correctly, the bond includes \$309 million which will be set aside to help counties fund infrastructure. Ms. Ivey responded yes, that is correct.

Next, Ms. Nicole Revels, a member of the group “NC Against The Bond,” came forward to address the Board. She began by reading a portion of the Republican Party Platform Article 5 which states that “government at all levels must not spend money it does not have,” and that by definition that is what a bond is. She stated concerns that the Connect NC is an omnibus spending bill which lumps together many projects across the state rather than considering them individually for funding. Additional concerns included a question of why the state would borrow the \$309 million to fund water/sewer infrastructure when the funds have not been allocated to any specific county or project and will continue to accrue interest, and a provision in the bond which will allow state legislators to redirect those funds elsewhere if needed. Ms. Revels feels it would be better for the state to continue to pay down its current debt with the money previously used to pay the debt service on the 2000 bond and have those funds available for other needs that may arise. She does not believe NC voters have been given enough information to make a decision on the bond.

After a few brief questions and comments from the Board, Commissioner Ascutto moved to approve the resolution in support of the Connect NC Bond. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis. Prior to the vote, Commissioners Burleson and McIntyre stated they would be voting against the resolution. Commissioner Lowder stated her support of the bond and the resolution as well.

Chairman Efird called for a vote. The motion carried with a 5 – 2 vote.
(Nos: Commissioner Burleson and Commissioner McIntyre)

See Exhibit A
Resolution In Support of the Connect NC Bond

ITEM # 3 – BLACKBOARD CONNECT POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager

Per the Board’s request, staff presented a draft policy and procedures for use of the County’s Blackboard Connect automated phone messaging system. At Commissioner McIntyre’s request, the County Manager read the summary section of the policy as information of those in attendance.

Commissioner Dennis moved to approve the policy and procedures and was seconded by Commissioner Lowder. The motion carried unanimously.

See Exhibit B
Blackboard Connect

Policy and Procedures

ITEM # 4 – DISCUSSION OF A POTENTIAL PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET LINE ITEM

Presenter: Commissioner Asciutto

For discussion and feedback, Commissioner Asciutto requested the Board consider the possibility of establishing a budget line item to aid municipalities in funding one time parks and recreations projects. Once completed, the municipalities would be responsible for the ongoing/routine maintenance.

Commissioner Lowder stated she felt this item should be discussed further during the budget workshops in June rather than during the regular meeting. Commissioner Asciutto agreed stating he wanted to bring it to the Board's attention prior to the start of budget discussions.

No Board action was required.

ITEM # 5 – CONSENT AGENDA

- A.** Minutes – Regular meeting of February 1, 2016
- B.** Health Dept. – Request approval of budget amendment # 2016-24
- C.** EMS – Request approval of the EMS ambulance and equipment financing and budget amendment # 2016-25
- D.** Solid Waste – Request approval to sale four (4) old recycle containers through Gov Deals
- E.** Central Permitting – Request approval of a Building Inspector III / Building Code Plan Review Officer position and the associated budget amendment # 2016-26; Request approval of budget amendment # 2016-27 for additional processing supplies.

Commissioner Dennis moved to approve the above items as presented and was seconded by Commissioner Asciutto. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

BOARD COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Burleson wished everyone a Happy Presidents Day.

Commissioner McIntyre reminded the Board members of the Senior Center Luncheon / Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday.

Commissioner Efird thanked everyone for coming out in the winter weather.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Asciutto moved to adjourn. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis and passed by a 7 – 0 vote at 7:49 p.m.

Terry Scott Efird, Chairman

Tyler Brummitt, Clerk